

services to countless seniors, individuals with disabilities and low-income families. By 2014, 54 million Americans relied on Medicare for quality health care and economic security, while 69 million—including one in three children—are benefited by Medicaid and its services.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid. I look forward to continuing to strengthen and protect Medicare and Medicaid to ensure that the promise of health and economic security will be there for generations to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 469 my flight was delayed due to weather. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye.

CONGRATULATING FIVE STUDENTS FROM THE 24TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS FOR RECEIVING FULBRIGHT AWARDS DURING THE 2014-2015 ACADEMIC YEAR

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Andrew Hasson of Coppell, Afshan Kamrudin of Carrollton, Matthew Lenzen of Farmers Branch, Abhishek Raj of Carrollton, and Amanda Kathleen White of Farmers Branch, who were selected to be 2014-2015 Fulbright Grantees. This is an incredibly illustrious achievement, and I am honored that these came from my Congressional District in Texas.

The Fulbright Program was established in 1946 by Congress. These five join the already 360,000 past participants over seven decades in the Fulbright Program, a prestigious group selected through open, merit-based competitions. Their destinations and universities are as follows:

Andrew Hasson to Malaysia through the University of Pennsylvania. Afshan Kamrudin to South Africa through Southern Methodist University. Matthew Lenzen to Taiwan through Texas A&M University. Abhishek Raj to Germany through the University of Texas at Dallas. Amanda Kathleen White to Japan through the University of North Texas.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring Andrew Hasson, Afshan Kamrudin, Matthew Lenzen, Abhishek Raj, and Amanda Kathleen White for this tremendous achievement.

HONORING H. GRAYSON COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR JONATHAN SWEET

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in honor of Grayson County Administrator Jonathan Sweet, who was recently named 2015 County Leader of the Year by Penton Media's "American City and County" magazine.

As is noted in the magazine's story, "Sweet started his professional career as the Director of Economic Development of Carroll County, Va., and then served Danville, Va., in their office of economic development. Sweet then moved to Bland County, Va., to become County Administrator at the age of 24—one of the youngest in the state to hold that position. However, he was tied to Grayson [County], where many of his friends and family lived. It's where he felt most at home."

Jonathan returned to Grayson in 2009 to serve as County Administrator and began addressing several difficult challenges, among them returning financial stability to the county and encouraging the growth of jobs and the economy. "As the furniture industry shrank and textile jobs moved overseas, the county really began to suffer, ultimately hitting an unemployment rate of 14.6 percent," Derek Prall wrote in the magazine. "By the time Sweet came on board, the county had taken on \$18.3 million in debt, and was relying on credit to stay afloat."

He immediately began working at the tasks at hand. In part because of Jonathan's efforts, "Grayson county went from one of the most financially challenged and distressed counties in Virginia, to becoming one of the most financially stable and well managed in the region," David Sexton, Chairman of the Grayson County Board of Supervisors, told the magazine. Further, the magazine notes, "The unemployment rate now stands at 6.9 percent, less than half of what it was at its peak."

Jonathan Sweet is a hardworking, dedicated, and passionate public servant, and I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating him on being named the 2015 County Leader of the Year. I commend Jonathan for his accomplishments and for his ongoing efforts to make Grayson County a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE OPEN AND TRANSPARENT SMITHSONIAN ACT OF 2015

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Open and Transparent Smithsonian Act of 2015 to further ensure that the Smithsonian Institution is accountable to the public for the taxpayer funds it receives. The bill provides that, for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the Privacy Act, the Smithsonian should be considered a federal agency. This bill is necessary because

there is no reason why the Smithsonian should not be accountable to the public for the annual federal appropriations it receives, which account for 70 percent of its budget. Although the Smithsonian was created by Congress as a federal trust, it receives the great majority of its funding from the federal government, much like federal agencies, and has always been treated as a federal agency except for FOIA and other open government laws. In the 1990s, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit found under the current act that the Smithsonian is not a federal agency for purposes of FOIA and the Privacy Act. The Smithsonian's website states that it is "not an Executive Branch agency, and FOIA does not apply to the Smithsonian."

This bill would amend FOIA and the Privacy Act to apply to the Smithsonian, which would require the institution to make administrative staff manuals, interpretations of law or regulations, final opinions, policies, and other records available to the public. The bill would also require the Smithsonian's Board of Regents and other boards to hold meetings to the public.

The current absence of transparency at the Smithsonian should be of concern, particularly in light of its recent history of secrecy and corruption. In 2007, an independent review found that the Smithsonian Board of Regents had violated many principles of good management during the tenure of Lawrence Small as Secretary of the Smithsonian. The report indicated that the Board had failed to provide the needed oversight, had over-compensated the Secretary, and had allowed the creation of an "insular culture." The report further found that the Smithsonian's deputy secretary and chief operating officer, Sheila Burke, was frequently absent from her duties because of outside activities, including service on corporate boards, for which she earned more than \$1.2 million over six years. Importantly, the report indicated that Smithsonian leaders took great measures to keep secret these missteps and mismanagement.

While the Smithsonian has since had new leaders, who are moving away from the mistakes of the past, Congress has not ensured that the Smithsonian is a transparent entity, which should not depend on who is in charge. An entity supported primarily by federal funds must be accountable to the American people.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD J. TRACY

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Donald J. Tracy of Cedar Park, TX. A pillar of this bustling community nestled in the heart of my congressional district, Donald recently resigned from the Cedar Park City Council to start a challenging doctoral program at Texas State University.

Daily life in Cedar Park rests upon the shoulders of dedicated public servants like Donald Tracy. First elected to the City Council in 2010, Donald served as mayor pro tem and as a critical member of several city committees. Widely admired and respected for his